

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8-10 and 15-19 without prejudice or disclaimer. and amend the remaining claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A floor ~~Vertically joined flooring material~~ comprising:

a plurality of floor boards, each of said floor boards comprising with edges, at least one of said edges having a distal end lying in a vertical plane, a lower side, and a decorative top surface, and a notch groove formed in said edge below said decorative upper surface, wherein at least part of said notch is defined by a shoulder, said shoulder terminating in a distal end, whereby the floor boards are intended to be vertically joined joinable by means of separate joining profiles, wherein at least one of said edges is provided with at least one groove, which groove is arranged parallel to its respective edge, and that the joining profiles are provided with comprise lips arranged in pairs, which lips each extend in the same direction and said joining profile and lips, when inserted into said groove, do does not extend beyond said lower side, and said lips are intended to be received by the at least one groove of a respective floor board so that adjacent floor boards with the grooves at the adjacent edges are guided and fixed horizontally by the lips of the joining profile, which lips are connected to each other by a middle section of the joining profile and that the joining profile is provided with a central cheek section which is comprised by a first resilient cheek and a second independently resilient cheek, each of said which cheeks having a width and are provided with one tongue each whereby the each tongue is tongues are intended to be received by said one notch each so that adjacent floor boards are fixed guided in a vertical direction and wherein a distance between said plane including the distal end of the edge and said distal end of the shoulder is greater than the width of at least one of the first and second cheeks.

2. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the groove of the floor board is on the lower side and is arranged at a distance from the closest edge less than half of the width of a floor board.

3. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 2, wherein the floor boards are provided with a groove at the edges and that the distance between each groove and the closest edge is about the same.

4. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 2, wherein the part of the floor board located between each edge and its respective groove is thinner than the maximum thickness of the floor board by means of a recess located on the lower side.

5. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the distance between a center of one lip to a center of the second lip of the joining profile is less than the distance between a center of one groove on a first board to a center of a second groove on an adjacent board.

6. (Previously Presented) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein the joining profiles are manufactured in long sections which may be cut into a desired length exceeding the length of a floor board before being cut.

7. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the joining profiles are partially coated with glue or adhesive tape.

8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the grooves on the lower side are arranged at a distance from the closest edge less than one quarter of the width of the floor board.

12. (Currently Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the top surface of the floor board is flush with the top surface of an adjacent floor board, and the lower sides ~~side~~ of the floor board are is flush with the joining profile.

13. (Currently Amended) Joining profile comprising:
two upstanding lips extending in the same direction, disposed at opposite ends of and perpendicular to a planar, longitudinally extending middle section having a midpoint, such that the middle section terminates with the upstanding lips;
a central cheek section located ~~location~~ substantially at the midpoint of the middle section, said central cheek section comprising first and second independently resilient cheeks, wherein the cheeks extend in the same direction as the lips, and not below the middle section;
each of said first and second resilient cheeks comprising a tongue, extending perpendicular with respect to said respective cheek;
wherein the joining profile is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer.

14. (Previously Presented) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein said first and second resilient cheeks are separated by a space, said space large enough to permit deflection of one of said first and second resilient cheeks without contacting the other of said first and second resilient cheeks.

15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the upper surface of the floor boards have a shape selected from the group consisting of square, rhombus and rectangle.

21. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the floor boards are partially coated with glue.

22. (Previously Presented) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein the material is an extruded thermoplastic material.

23. (Previously Presented) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein the thermoplastic material is a polyolefin.

24. (Previously Presented) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein the material is an injection molded material.